



# *THE KALIFORNSKI*

*Sretan Uskrs!*



**NEWSLETTER OF THE SLAVIC-AMERICAN CULTURAL ORGANIZATION**  
**P.O. BOX 226 - WATSONVILLE, CA. 95077**  
**(A NON-PROFIT - NON-RELIGIOUS & NON-POLITICAL ORGANIZATION)**

**EDITORS:**  
**Agnes Gospodnetic Mifsud**  
**Nina Matulich**

**SPRING 2011**

*Happy Easter!*



Happy Easter  
To All



### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**Hello Everyone!**

**Thank you for attending the Christmas Dinner held in December, 2010. This was another great culinary event with the food prepared by Peter Kovacich and crew. Served were 28 adults and 2 children including 8 take-outs.**

**Thanks go out to the helpers - Nina Matulich - reservations, Helen Marinovich Ukestad and Norma Hansen - raffle tickets, Mary Marinovich Siefke - drink tickets, Agnes Gospodnetić Mifsud - decorations and dessert serving with helper Helen Barbora McAbee. More thanks to the raffle number calling - Agnes Gospodnetić Mifsud and Mike Mifsud, and the bartenders - John Vodanovich and Mike Mifsud. More thanks go out to Gary Gospodnetich for preparing and bringing the bakalar, and to Jerry Weakland for donating the wine.**


**The Dubrovnik singers and musicians, as well as the mayor and tourism officials, passed through Watsonville on February 10th. They spent the time at the Ag History Museum at the Fairgrounds, where they learned about the history of the early Croatian farming community in the Pajaro Valley, then proceeded to visit the cemetery on East Lake Avenue, and then followed up with lunch at the Gizdich Ranch. The Dubrovnik group came to Watsonville after visiting Monterey, their sister city. Thank you John and Jelka Basor for setting this up, and to Nancy Bilicich (Watsonville City Council) and Greg Caput (Board of Supervisors), both of Croatian heritage, for welcoming them.**

**S.A.C.O. donated \$250.00 towards the lunch at the Gizdich Ranch for the vocal group Subrenum and the Dubrovnik Guitar Trio.**


**STEVE BELICK**



**Subrenum group visited Watsonville and celebrated the regions Croatian roots.**



# Happy Easter



## S.A.C.O. OFFICERS

**President ~ Steve Belick ~ 477-7523**  
**Vice-President ~ Peter Kovacich - 724-0071**  
**Treasurer ~ Agnes Gospodnetić Mifsud ~ 637-2744**  
**Recording Secretary ~ Linda Wathen Espejo - 724-2892**  
**Financial Secretary ~ Nina Matulich ~ 724-7971**



## COMING EVENTS 2011

**July 10, 2011 ~ Sunday ~ BBQ at Corralitos Padre Park**  
**December 10, 2011 ~ Saturday ~ Christmas Dinner**

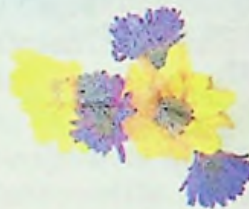


## REMINDER OF S.A.C.O. DUES

**There are still some members who have not paid their SACO annual 2011 dues. Please pay soon if you wish to continue your membership. Annual dues are: SINGLE ~ \$12 FAMILY ~ \$18**  
**Please make check payable to:**

**S.A.C.O.**  
**c/o 535 McKenzie Avenue**  
**Watsonville, CA 95076**

**THANK YOU!**



## WELCOME NEW S.A.C.O. MEMBERS!

**Mike & Cheryl Jerkovich ~ Kerman, CA**  
**Mary Gospodnetich ~ Watsonville, CA**  
**Patsy Mills ~ LaSelva Beach, CA**  
**Charles T. & Spomenka Zaninovich ~ Watsonville, CA**  
**Ron & Caryl Matusich, Aptos, CA**

**February 16, 2011**

**Here is our membership fee of \$18 for SACO. We have heard wonderful things about the organization. Thank you in advance for your assistance. Sincerely,**

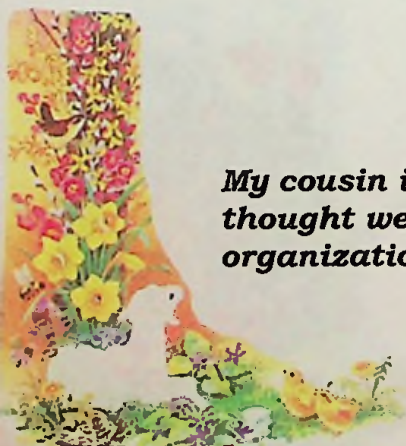
**Ron & Caryl Matusich**



## CORRESPONDENCE

**My cousin is Chuck Zaninovich, he forwarded your newsletter. We thought we would enjoy receiving it, so are joining your organization if that is all right.**

**Mike Jerkovich**





IN MEMORIUM

**PAULINE H. NOVACOVICH LEWIS**  
98 years ~ January 7, 2011 ~ Hillsborough, CA  
Mother of Lorraine and Carolyn  
Grandmother of 5  
Great-Grandmother of 2  
Sister of Lloyd Lettis

**ANN MATIASEVICH SOLDO**  
90 years ~ January 24, 2011 ~ Watsonville, CA  
Sister of Grace Leavitt  
Aunt to a niece and several nephews



**Christmas Dinner**  
**December 11, 2010**

DESSERTS

**Norma Hansen**  
**Karen Belick**  
**Mary Marinovich Siefke**  
**June Matiasevich Melton**  
**Lynne Hodges**  
**Slavica Kusanovich Zalac**  
**Helen Barbora McAbee**  
**Sharon Nizenkoff**  
**Ethlyn Miller**

**Helen Marinovich Ukestad**  
**S.A.C.O.**  
**Teresa Del Fiero**  
**Susan Valdivia**  
**Mary Lipanovich**  
**Cathy Pekoch Schimpeler**  
**Janey Leonardich**  
**Pat Gospodretich Solano**  
**Twoana Gross**



PRIZES

**Norma Hansen**  
**John Vodanovich**  
**Sue Bloom**  
**Betty Kesovia Bobeda**  
**Nita Gizdich**  
**Nada Misunas**  
**Lynn Hodges**  
**John Lukrich**  
**Alex Solano**  
**Jim Dutra**  
**Richard Del Piero - strawberries**

**Helen Marinovich Ukestad**  
**S.A.C.O.**  
**Ann Lukrich Dobler**  
**Eric Del Piero**  
**Steve Belick**  
**Janet Meidl**  
**Michael Hodges**  
**Bob Leonardich**  
**Ann Backovich**  
**John Bagatella**



**HVALA PUNO ~ THANK YOU VERY MUCH**  
**WITH APPRECIATION ~**

*Mina Matukich*



# *Sretan Uskrs vam želi*

## THE CROATIAN DELEGATION VISIT

*A delegation of 37 people, led by the mayor of the City of Dubrovnik, Croatia, Dr. Andro Vlahusic, visited Watsonville on February 10, 2011. The group consisted of a vocal group Subrenum, who sings Dalmatian songs and also Dubrovnik Guitar Trio as well as local businessmen and tourist promoters, and Croatian TV reporters. The Consul General of Croatia from Los Angeles, Ilija Zelalic, accompanied the group.*

*John Basor knew that the Dubrovnik delegation will be visiting the sister city, Monterey, CA, and spoke to Dr. Nancy Bilicich, city councilwoman of Croatian descent, to organize the short visit to Watsonville, the city whose many residents came from Croatia over the years, most of them from Dubrovnik region. The group organizer, Tilda Bogdanovic, was very thrilled with the offer. In Watsonville, they visited the Agricultural History Project at the Fairgrounds and the Codiga Museum, where they saw the traces of the impact that the Croatians immigrants had in the Pajaro Valley. At the museum, the delegation was welcomed by Dr. Nancy Bilicich, then Watsonville mayor Daniel Dodge presented to the mayor of Dubrovnik with the Proclamation. Mr. Greg Caput, county supervisor, whose father immigrated from Croatia, presented the County of Santa Cruz Proclamation. The Mekis sisters, Donna Mekis and Kathy Miller, authors of the book, "Blossoms Into Gold", talked about the history of the Croatian immigrants and their influence in the Pajaro Valley, especially Watsonville. Ms. Pat Johns talked about the history of the valley, about the beginning of the 20th century when most of the immigrants came from Dubrovnik area. " There were so many Croatians who helped build this valley", said Jelka Basor, a Croatian who lives in Watsonville. "This is exciting, because many of these people have relatives in the area". The Subrenum vocal group sang a few Croatian songs and everyone enjoyed it very much. After visiting the museum, the group went to the Catholic Cemetery where many of them recognized the names of the late relatives on the tombstones. They stopped at the Gizdich Ranch for lunch before leaving for San Francisco.*

*Submitted by:  
John Basor*



## DESIRE TO LEARN CROATIAN



***Croatian teacher, John Basor is teaching "CROATIAN - Beginning Conversational at the Watsonville/Aptos Adult School. John said he was amazed and overwhelmed at the response of the class, that there was so much interest! Most of the students are middle-aged or older, the children and grandchildren of Croatian immigrants who began arriving in the U.S. in the late 1800's.***

***Thank you John for giving them the opportunity to learn about the basic Croatian language as well as Croatia's culture - it's beautiful music, customs and of course the fabulous food!***



***John Basor points out a map of the Konavle Valley in the Dubrovnik area of Croatia***

## **Krka National Park, Croatia**

Helena Slambora of Sacramento, Calif., "took SE for a long flight to Europe where I visited my friend Eva. We've been friends since first grade!"



# Sretan Uskrs

## DID YOU KNOW?

*The official flower of the Republic of Croatia is the Iris (perunika - in Croatian). The picture below was taken by me (Agnes-editor) when I was in my birthplace (Dol, Brač, Croatia) last Spring 2010, and the iris are seen growing out of the rocks, gardens, and all along the roadsides. It's absolutely beautiful and to be in Croatia in the Spring is just as beautiful! The weather is great-not too hot and not too cold, some rain but after the rain, the air is so wonderful and aromatic, you just want to twirl yourself around, which is exactly what I did!*



## BOOK PRESENTATION

*There will be a presentation of the new book, "The Slav Community of Watsonville, CA", on April 23, from 2 to 4 pm (Saturday), in the Community Room on the top floor of the new City Plaza building 275 Main St. in Watsonville. You can drive to the top floor through the parking garage. The editor, Tom Ninkovich will discuss the project that created the book, how it came to be, what the book can mean to the local Slav community and answer any questions you might have. The book is now available in the Watsonville Public Library. For info call: Tom ~ 831-247-4456. THANK YOU!*





# Happy Easter



DATED MATERIAL - Please Rush



Steve & Karen Belick  
3155 Crystal Heights Dr.  
Soquel, CA 95073



THE SLAVIC-AMERICAN  
CULTURAL ORGANIZATION, INC.  
P.O. Box 226  
Watsonville, CA 95077



**DAVID LYN**  
KATIE ALAGA-SMITH  
REALTOR, GREG

Office: (831) 763-6720 • Fax: (831) 763-6701  
Cell: (831) 334-8500

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**JELKA BASOR**  
Manager

948 East Lake Avenue, Watsonville, CA 95076  
Bus: (831) 728-7766 / Fax (831) 728-0379  
e-mail: adriaticjb@aol.com

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Phone (831) 722-3541 • Fax (831) 722-1697  
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